

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 MMS-03 NSC-07

DRC-01 /156 W

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P R 061910Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4465

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3765

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USCINCEUR

USCINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCLANT

USCINCPAC

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO, PARM, IO, XO, US,UK, UR

SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL DEPLOYMENT - BRIEFING AT MARCH 6 NAC

REF: A) STATE 043191; B) STATE 036954; C) STATE 035187;

D) STATE 031796; E) USNATO 0590

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT MARCH 6 NAC, U.K. AND U.S. REPS BRIEFED COUNCIL ON SOVIET, BRITISH AND AMERICAN NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE U.S. REP TOLD ALLIES U.S. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THESE U.S. NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS AND THE EXPANSION OF FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA, AND WITH RESPECT TO RESTRAINTS ON MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INDIAN OCEAN AREA. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIOR TO MARCH 6 COUNCIL MEETING UK DELEGATION INDICATED TO MISSION ITS DESIRE TO BRIEF COUNCIL ON SOVIET AND UK NAVAL

DEPLOYMENTS IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA, AND REQUESTED SUPPORTING BRIEF ON U.S. DEPLOYMENTS. MISSION AGREED.

2. AT THE COUNCIL MEETING UNDER STATEMENTS ON POLITICAL SUBJECTS" UK AMBASSADOR (PECK) REFERRED TO THE JOINT LETTER OF FEBRUARY 5 FROM AMBASSADORS RUMSFELD AND PECK INFORMING COUNCIL MEMEERS OF PLANS FOR DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION AND SAID HE HAD SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO THAT SUBJECT THAT HE WISHED TO SHARE WITH ALLIES. PECK THEN BRIEFED ON RECENT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. HIS FACTS AND FIGURES ACCORDED EXACTLY WITH THOSE IN REFERENCE D. HE THEN DESCRIBED ROYAL NAVY DEPLOYMENTS USING THE INFORMATION IN PARAS TWO AND THREE OF REFERENCE C. PECK THEN ASKED THE U.S. REP TO SPEAK TO THE U.S.NAVEL DEPLOYMENTS IN THE AREA.

3. U.S. REP (MCAULIFFE) DREW ON PARA FOUR OF REF C REGARDING U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND OBSERVED THAT IN 1973 TOTAL SOVIET SHIP DAYS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN EXCEEDED THOSE OF THE U.S. NAVY BY A RATIO OF MORE THAN FOUR TO ONE.

4. MCAULIFFE THEN INVITED THOUGHTS OF ALLIES ON THESE SUBJECTS, AND EVEN CONSULTATIONS IF THAT WAS THEIR WISH. HE SAID, "WE ARE RECEPTIVE TO ANY CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS AS TO RESTRAINTS ON MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA:

-- HOWEVER, OUR INTENTIONS TO EXPAND OUR FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA ARE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO ANY GIVEN LEVELS OF SHIP DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN;

-- THEY ARE, RATHER, CONSIDERED IN THE TOTAL CONTEXT OF OUR OVERALL POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRATEGY FOR THE REGION;

-- THIS TURN IS DETERMINED BY A MCUH BROADER RANGE OF FACTORS THAN SIMPLY THE CURRENT LEVEL OF SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN." (SEE PARA THREE REF A)

4. ACTING SYG PANSA AND GERMAN AND BELGIAN PERMREPS (KRAPF AND CONFIDENTIAL

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DE STAERCKE) EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO U.K. AND THE U.S. FOR THEIR REMARKS. THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION WAS RAISED BY KRAPF WHO ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN A NAVAL BASE AT PORT LOUIS.

5. PECK REPLIED THAT AS FAR AS HE COULD RECALL A FISHING BOAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN CONCLUDED BY THE SOVIETS AND THE MAURITIANS, BUT HE DID NOT THINK MAURITIUS' FLIRTATIONS WITH SOVIETS ON A BASE AGREEMENT HAD DEVELOPED INTO ANYTHING. PECK EXPRESSED THOUGHT THAT THE REAL MENACE WOULD BE IF THE RUSSIANS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING A NAVAL BASE IN INDIA, BUT HE BELIEVED THUS FAR THE INDIANS HAD CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO DISCUSS THIS.

4. PANSAC CONCLUDED BY AGAIN THANKING THE U.S. AND THE U.K. REPS
SAYING THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THIS
SUBJECT SHOULD BE KEPT "ON THE BOOKS", AND IT SHOULD APPEAR
AGAIN ON THE COUNCIL AGENDA FROM TIME TO TIME.
MCAULIFFE

CONFIDENTIAL

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